[English]

Employment Assurance Schemes

1852. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the request of Government of Kerala to extent the Employment Assurance Schemes (EAS) Programme to 16 more blocks situated in the remote Western Ghat areas where Scheduled Tribe population is higher; and

(b) if so, the details, thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the remaining non-EAS blocks of Kerala will be covered under EAS during 1997-98.

Allotment of Plots

1853. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the residential plots have been allotted to the members of the Panchasheel Co-operative House Building Society Limited at Mohali (Chandigarh), Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the allottees are likely to be given possession of plots; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) It has been reported by the Government of Punjab that the Panchsheel Co-operative House Building Society Limited has approached State Government for allotment of plots. The Society however, applied for setting up of a Colony but the land proposed for the same falls in the "Controlled Area" under the Punjab Government Property Regulation Act.

Before a licence is granted to the Society for setting up of the Colony, it is required to be registered as Promoter, which action has not been done by it so far.

[Translation]

Discontinuation of Supplementary JRY

1854. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for discontinuing the supplementary Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in Almora and Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the measures being taken to tackle the problem of unemployment in the rural areas due to discontinuation of this scheme; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the supplementary Jawahar Rojgar Yojana to provide rural employment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) No scheme named Supplementary Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was in operation. However, Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana implemented in 120 backward districts of the country was merged with the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) w.e.f. 1.1.1996. EAS is a demand driven scheme under which districts can some up for release of next instalment after utilization of 50% or more of the available funds. This can take care of unemployment in the district.

[English]

Bureaucracy a Fiasco

1856. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bureaucracy a fiasco: Chief Secys call for the revamp" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated November 21, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The news item 'Bureaucracy a fiasco: Chief Secys call for its revamp' appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 21.11.96 relates to the press note issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances on the conclusions of the Conference of Chief Secretaries held on 20.11.96.

The import recommendations of the Conference of Chief Secretaries are as follows :-

(i) There is a need for steps of reorganise work procedures, for delegation down the line and an effective management information system accessible to all. Simultaneous steps to address the right sizing of public services are necessary.

(ii) The approach to the elimination of corruption in the public service needs to address prevention, surveillance and deterrent prosecution, and deal ruthlessly with the nexus between ciriminals and unscrupulous elements.

(iii) The Government of India and State Governments should draw up a Charter of Ethics and Civil Service Code for the civil service.

(iv) The State Governments will be requested to devise suitable mechanisms including a high powered Civil Service Board, and amend relevant rules, for transparent decisions on postings, promotions and transfers of officials at all levels.

(v) It is necessary to introduce greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies. This would cover, for example, movement towards a Right to Information Act.

(vi) Accountability should be interpreted in a larger sense in order to ensure public satisfaction and responsive delivery of services. For this purpose, a phased introduction of Citizens' Charter for as many service institutions as possible could be considered.

The recommendations of the Conference have been given wide publicity and are being followed up within the Central Government and with the State Governments for urgent processing. It is proposed to place an Action Plan soon before a Conference of Chief Ministers, after consolidating the views of different citizen group as well as State Governments.

Payment of Sales Tax

1857. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the foreign airlines have not been making payment of Sales tax and other State taxes on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to various Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the names of such foreign airlines;

(c) the amount outstanding against each airlines of the oil companies;

(d) whether Air India has also requested for exempting it from paying the sales tax vis-a-vis the foreign airlines;

(e) whether a inter-Ministry meeting has taken place to sort out this issue; and

(f) if so, the outcome of meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The details of the Airlines and the estimated outstanding on account of Sales-tax as on 31.1.97 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Government has considered the matter for remedial measures.

Statement

Outstanding from Foreign Airlines on Account of Sales Tax

Rs./LACS

	As on 31/1/97 (Provisional)			
	!OC	BPCL	HPCL	Total
Air France	1031.99			1031.99
Lufthansa	2362.33			2362.33
Kuwait Airways	165.68			165.68
Saudia	361.82			361.82
EL AL Israel	452.49			452.49
Royal Jordan	290.54			290.54
Syrian Air	7.04			7.04
Thai Airways	220.23			220.23
SAS	101.11			101.11
United Air	230.79			230.79
Aeroflot	15.27		6.60	21.87
KLM	131.66	1054.18		1185.84
British Airways		2230.05		2230.05
Swiss Air		1485.72		1485.72
Alitalia		544.96		544.96
Koren Air		661.83		661.83
Uzbekistan Airways		92.68		92.68
Air Mauritius		102.89		102.89
Kenya Airways		100.57		100.57
Delta Airlines		48.33	528.00	576.33
Egypt Air		49.43		49.43
All Nippon Airlines		40.23		40.23
Air Canada		67.84		67.84
Emirates		20.89		20.89
Martiin Air		.62		.62
Gulf Air		9.47		9.47
Total	5370.95	6509.69	534.60	12415.24